

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 01433 201621 Z

50 L

ACTION PM-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01

PRS-01 NSC-10 DODE-00 EB-11 T-03 MC-02 OMB-01 RSR-01

SS-14 L-03 /091 W

----- 101450

R 201512 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5346

INFO USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1433

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MASS SP US

SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENTARY ON SHIP LOANS

REFS MADRID 1021, 1174, 1225

1. QUOTED FOR YOUR INFO IS TEXT OF ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF
LETTER I SENT TO MINISTER OF THE NAVY, ADMIRAL BATURONE,
ON MARCH 13:

BEGIN QUOTE

MY DEAR ADMIRAL:

I HAVE THE HONOR TO WRITE TO YOU CONCERNING AN EDITORIAL
WHICH APPEARED IN THE MADRID NEWSPAPER, INFORMACIONES, ON
5 MARCH 1973. THIS EDITORIAL DISCUSSED UNITED STATES NAVAL
COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE TO THE SPANISH NAVY, A SUBJECT OF
CONSIDERABLE INTEREST TO BOTH OF US. IN MY JUDGMENT, THIS
ARTICLE CONVEYS AN ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION OF THE CURRENT
STATE OF THE RELATIONSHIP EXISTING BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES
AND NAVIES UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT OF FRIENDSHIP
AND COOPERATION, AND SPECIFICALLY IN THE MATTER OF DESTROYERS.

I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY THE RIGHTS, AND ROLE, OF A PRIVATELY
OWNED PRESS, AND THE FACT THAT OPINIONS EXPRESSED THEREIN DO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MADRID 01433 201621 Z

NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE FEELING OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT OR THE SPANISH NAVY. NEVERTHELESS, I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT THE NEWSPAPER'S APPRAISAL OF THE FACTS, WITH SUCH STATEMENTS AS " HOWEVER THE MERE FACT THAT THE U. S. NAVY HAS, BY NEGLIGENCE OR INTENT, GIVEN TO THE SPANISH NAVY SHIPS IN WHAT CAN BE TERMED AS INSERVICEABLE CONDITION, BETRAYS AS OUTLOOK ON THE PART OF WASHINGTON TOWARDS COOPERATION WITH SPAIN ON DEFENSE MATTERS THAT IS DOUBLE ERRONEOUS", COULD AND WILL BE INTERPRETED HERE AND IN THE UNITED STATES AS OFFICIAL SPANISH NAVY THINKING. IF THIS STATEMENT WERE ACCEPTED AT FACE VALUE, THE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON BOTH OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND NAVIES BECOMES CLEARLY OBVIOUS. IN VIEW OF THE FRANKNESS WHICH HAS BEEN CLEARLY DISPLAYED BY BOTH NAVIES IN ALL OUR DEALINGS, I WOULD HOPE THAT YOU COULD FIND IT EXPEDIENT TO DISAVOW PUBLICLY THE FALSE IMPRESSIONS LEFT BY THIS EDITORIAL.

IT IS MY CONTINUING BELIEF THAT, IN SPITE OF NEWSPAPER COMMENTS, COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IN ALL AREAS, AND ESPECIALLY IN NAVAL AFFAIRS, CONTINUES TO BE CLOSE, WARM, AND PRODUCTIVE. FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH HIGH-RANKING OFFICERS IN THE SPANISH NAVY, I CONCLUDE THAT THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS EDITORIAL ARE NOT IN CONSONANCE WITH THOSE EXPRESSED TO ME. I AM ALSO CONVEYING THIS VIEW IN SEPARATE CORRESPONDENCE WITH ADMIRAL PITA DA VEIGA.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY ASSURANCE OF MY OWN WARM PERSONAL REGARDS AND THAT I, AND MY STAFFS, CONTINUE TO STRIVE FOR THE CONTINUING SUCCESS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE SPANISH NAVY. I KNOW, AS YOU KNOW, THAT THESE ARE COMMON GOALS, SHARED BY ALL LEVELS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY.

SINCERELY END QUOTE

2. I HAVE SENT SIMILAR LETTERS TO CHIEF OF STAFF OF SPANISH NAVY AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM WITH COPIES TO THE FONMIN. I HAVE RECEIVED REPLIES FROM BOTH MINISTER OF THE NAVY AND CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE NAVY WHICH COMPLETELY DISAVOW ARTICLE AND EXPRESS OFFICIAL VIEW OF THE SPANISH NAVY. COPIES WILL BE POUCHED.

RIVERO

CONFIDENTIAL

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MADRID01433
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730333/aaaaibfm.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25-Sep-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <30-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971216
Subject: PRESS COMMENTARY ON SHIP LOANS REFS MADRID 1021, 1174, 1225
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, SP, US, n/a
To: PM
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO CINCUSNAVEUR
USCINCEUR
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005